

DEPARTMENT HEAD MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE TOWN MANAGER
FEBRUARY, 2007

Below, please find a compilation of reports from each Town Department

ASSESSOR: Submitted by David Utakis

The first day of February marked the last day taxpayers were eligible to submit requests for real estate and personal property tax abatements. The final number was 92 applications submitted on time which is three times as many as usual.

We expected a few extra due to the triennial re-certification of values (a.k.a. revaluation), but not 60 more. We got 27 requests from Carrington Landing condo residents because of a zoning glitch we hope was corrected with a recent zoning amendment approved at last month's special town meeting. We got eight more applications because a developer can't blast or drill wells in a new sub-division because it is within the 3,000 foot zone set by the Board of Health near a Kempton Road hazardous waste spill.

A majority of the rest of the abatement applications are from taxpayers who thought the widely publicized drop of 6% in the average of median sales prices of houses in 2006 in Massachusetts meant their values should have dropped in FY2007. Their thinking was false for two reasons. The 2007 valuations were based on sales from calendar year 2005 and the 2006 sales will be reflected in the valuations for FY2008. Unlike many area towns, the median sales price in Uxbridge actually increased by 2% during 2006.

While I will spend much of March dealing with abatements, our dedicated and hardworking assessor staff of Barbara Harris and Jennifer Hyland deal with the usual onslaught of motor vehicle excise tax abatements. The first and primary commitment of excise tax bills totaling \$1,157,795 went out recently and those who sold or traded cars recently are steadily streaming in for abatements. Our residents must be buying cheaper or older cars as the dollar amount of the commitment increased by only \$200 over last year's, but the number of bills sent out increased by more than 200. Also sent out along with the 2007 bills were batches of 2006 bills which represent the end of the year car trades with 370 bills amounting to \$23,958. A similar batch a year before included 434 bills worth \$39,816. That seems to indicate we leveled off on the amount of excise tax coming in.

A drop in the amount and number of supplemental real estate tax bills sent out in February reflects the slowed real estate market. Barbara and Jennifer processed \$68,235 worth of supplemental bills. Add in the September 2006 billing of \$17,960 for a year's total of \$86,195. That is \$17,431 less than last year representing the estimated 20% drop in single family homes sales in 2006. Supplemental tax bills are assessed primarily on new single family homes and condominiums that were brought to full and fair market value after the granting of an occupancy permit during the tax year. In order to be assessed such a bill; improvements to the property had to exceed 50% of the valuation already assessed on that parcel that year.

This office recently updated its website to reflect the 2007 values approved by the Mass. Department of Revenue in December. Updates are currently in the works for the GIS website to reflect zoning changes and property line and size changes that occurred in 2006. Those changes are expected sometime early in March. The printed version of the new map updates have already

arrived at the office. The computerized version of the updates is yet to be installed due to anticipated programming changes.

I strongly recommend all staff consider trying out the Google Earth program that is available free on the worldwide web. This tool will allow the user to visit anywhere in Uxbridge, anywhere in this state and anywhere in the world with the click of a few computer keys. The aerial shots available of Uxbridge were taken sometime in 2005. The clarity is good at 1,000 feet altitude. Persons can zoom in on Uxbridge High School just as easily as they can to the State House in Boston or the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. I use the program extensively in conjunction with our in-house GIS program and Pictography Program.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Nick Gazerro

February is still a very busy month. There has been an exceptional number of walk-ins. June has been working on the updating old records when time permits.

During the month I met with Dixon-Salo about Bernat Mill, Contractors from Stanley Woolen, Also, Fire Chief Peter Ostroskey twice about issues. Alan Keeler about 2nd floor of the Library & Engineers about Hannaford renovation, Architect about St. Mary's addition. I have been doing yearly inspections. I went to the District 5 Building Inspectors meeting. On February 21st I sent a Cease Order to 189 Mendon St.

On Friday the 25th I responded to a fire at 56 Cross Street at 8 p.m.

February 2007 the number of permits issued and the fee collected is as follows:

Building Permits	8	Fee's Collected	\$3,119.50
Electric Permits	14	Fee's Collected	\$1,446.00
Plumbing Permits	12	Fee's Collected	\$ 940.00
Gas Permits	7	Fee's Collected	\$ 250.00
		Total Collected	\$5,755.50

Following are the Building Permits that were issued during the month of February 2007.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Basement Remodel | 1 Roofs |
| 1 Demo of House | 2 Single Family Homes =3796 sf |
| 1 Stove - Wood | 1 Stove- Pellet |
| 1 Commerical Basement finish | 1 Replace of 3 Phone Antennas |
| 1 remove walls for open space | |

2 of these were for Commercial

There were 6 **Occupancy permits** issued during February.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Submitted by Rachel Landry
Permitting Activity

The Commission received 4 new applications for work near or within wetlands:

Donoughe, Paul - 11 Spinning Wheel Drive (Map 30, Parcel 1062) – RDA#0207

A Request for Determination was submitted. The request was if an area described as a detention basin located on the property is subject to the provisions of the Wetlands Protection Act and it's implementing regulations. The Commission found that the area is not subject to jurisdiction under the Wetlands Protection Act unless alterations to said area result in impacts to wetlands. Detention basins are infrastructure features for treatment of stormwater runoff and are therefore not recognized as wetland resource areas. However, a critical function of detention basins is to attenuate water pollution as well as flow volume being discharged to downstream receiving waters. Alterations to detention basins which compromise these important functions may result in violations of the Wetlands Protection Act. A Negative Determination of Applicability was issued, with strong warning to the applicant that alteration could result in a violation if the detention basin no longer functions as designed.

Tsimogiannis, Odisefs - 51 Rivulet Street (Map 12C, Parcels 3494 & 3465) – NOI – DEP# 312-861
Construction of a 4-unit condominium complex and appurtenances. Portions of the proposed work are within 200-foot Riverfront Area of Rivulet Brook. A dilapidated house and other structures, including a garage along the bank of Rivulet Brook currently exist at the site. The applicant proposes to remove the existing structures and to restore much of the inner 100 feet of 200-foot Riverfront area with shrubs. The proposed work was deemed an improvement over existing conditions. An Order of Conditions with reference to restoration plans was issued for the project.

Ricca, Alfred - 128 King Street (Map 53, Parcels 679 & 1465) – NOI – DEP# 312-862
Construction of a detention basin appurtenant to a proposed subdivision. Portions of the proposed work are within 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. An Order of Conditions with standard conditions was issued for the project.

Lavallee, Steven - 290 Henry Street (Map 20, Parcel 3115) – NOI – DEP# 312-860
Construction of a single-family home and appurtenances. Portions of the proposed work are within 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland. An Order of Conditions with standard conditions was issued for the project.

Two Enforcement Orders were reviewed:

Turf Technologies - 77 Industrial Drive (Map 45, Parcel 727) – V0206

Storage of vehicles & other equipment in 200-foot Riverfront Area of Blackstone River

Presentation of proposed mitigation. The previously issued enforcement order required submittal of plans and a narrative prepared by a wetland scientist or other environmental professional. Said plans and narrative have been provided and found acceptable by the Commission.

Khumalo, Norman - 4 Dew Lane (Map 23, Parcel 3062) – V1106

Placement of fill within Bordering Vegetated Wetland without a permit. Review of required wetlands restoration narrative and plans. Mr. Khumalo met with the Commission to discuss progress on required restoration of wetlands. Due to weather constraints, documentation regarding extent of fill has not yet been provided. The Commission anticipates receiving the required

documentation by mid-April, after winter's thaw allows wetland professionals to thoroughly assess the violation area.

Deliberations concluded on:

Northwind Partners, Summerfield at Taft (Map 23, Parcels 3765, 4435) – Request for Amendment - DEP# 312-751

Request for Amendment to Order of Conditions (DEP File # 312-751). Requested changes to stormwater management system. The submitted Request for Amendment is in response to a recent violation notice issued by the Commission to Northwind Partners. The violation notice required that the Request for Amendment be filed so that work completed which deviated from that approved, could be reviewed and discussed as required by law. The Commission has retained peer review to analyze the submitted plans and other data to ensure wetland resource areas and coldwater fisheries would be sufficiently protected. Peer review has reported that with proposed changes as provided by Summerfield, the project will meet all State Stormwater Management Standards. The Commission issued an amended Order of Conditions for the project.

(see above under New Applications for information on deliberations)

- Donoughe, Paul - 11 Spinning Wheel Drive (Map 30, Parcel 1062) – RDA#0207
- Tsimogiannis, Odisefs -51 Rivulet Street (Map 12C, Parcels 3494 & 3465) – NOI – DEP# 312-861
- Ricca, Alfred - 128 King Street (Map 53, Parcels 679 & 1465) – NOI – DEP# 312-862
- Lavallee, Steven - 290 Henry Street (Map 20, Parcel 3115) – NOI – DEP# 312-860

Deliberations continued into March:

Uxbridge Associates, LLC - 325 Mendon Road WAUCANTUCK (Map 20, Parcel 1749)

Construction of 147 condominium units, associated grading, utilities, parking and stormwater management structures. Portions of the proposed work are within 200-foot Riverfront Area of West River, 100-foot buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetland, 100-foot buffer zone of Inland Bank, and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. Upon reviewing case evidence pertaining to historic mill exemptions for work in Riverfront Area, the Commission has voted that the proposed work is not subject to the Rivers Protection Act. Deliberations continue on multiple aspects of the project. Stormwater management calculations are being peer reviewed.

Fred Hutnak Development Corporation -74 & 84 Eric Drive (Map 8, Parcels 4247 & 4267)

The Commission is prepared to issue an Order of Conditions for this project, however, the applicant's representative has requested that it be kept on the agenda in anticipation of possible project changes due to deliberations of other Boards.

Certificates of Compliance issued:

A Certificate of Compliance indicates that work previously approved by the Commission has been completed in compliance with approved Orders and plans.

- Vecchione, Gary -189 Mendon Street, DEP #312-592
- Bangma, Dale- Autumn Woods, off Aldrich Street Lot 4, Acorn Drive
- Bangma, Dale- Autumn Woods, off Aldrich Street Lot 7, Acorn Drive

Open Space Management

A minor wetlands violation was discovered at Pout Pond. Approximately 3 cubic feet of sand and bits of blacktop were placed in a shallow marsh area just off the recently constructed boardwalk. The individuals responsible for this activity are unknown. The “island” thus created, is in a highly visible area, and is an eye sore. The Conservation Administrator, with the assistance of the Commission members, will remove the fill with shovels and buckets when the weather turns mild.

The Commission continues to work with Mr. John Audet on acceptance of a gift of land which will add approximately 25 acres of forested land (primarily floodplain wetland, interspersed with pockets of upland) to the existing Legg Farm Conservation Area.

Other

The Commission’s newest member, Russell Holden, has been sworn in. Mr. Holden teaches high school science and is an enthusiastic naturalist. The Commission welcomes Mr. Holden and looks forward to working with him in the months and years to come!

COUNCIL ON AGING: Submitted by Marsha Petrillo

Prescription Advantage

During the month of February it has been our focus to inform senior citizens enrolled in Prescription Advantage about potential changes to their Part D plans and what they need to do to protect their Prescription Advantage Benefits. Many eligible seniors who applied for what is known as “Extra Help” (the low-income subsidy that Social Security administers in combination with Medicare Pt. D) do not realize that they may not automatically qualify for the subsidy each year, and that they may be required to provide Social Security with additional information about their assets. If qualified seniors fail to provide the Social Security Administration the necessary information, they risk losing their Prescription Advantage Benefits on April 30, 2007.

Individuals deemed eligible for “extra help” can reduce their prescription drug costs by lowering their Medicare drug plan’s premium and co-payments. To qualify for Extra Help, one’s assets cannot be more than \$11,710 for a single person or more than \$23,410 for a married couple. It is also necessary for all eligible seniors to send their confirmation receipt and/or a copy of their determination letter from Social Security to Prescription Advantage by April 30, 2007.

The Senior Center encourages all family members, not only senior citizens, to contact us at 508-278-8622 if you have any questions about qualifying for possible “extra help” and the Prescription Advantage Drug Program.

Outreach Report

Our Outreach Coordinator works 15 hours each week and is available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9:00am – 3:00 pm and Thursdays from 8:00 am to 11:00 am.

Office Visits	17	Home Visits	2
Nursing Home Visits	10	Wakes & Funerals	7
SMOC Recerts & New Applications	9	Telephone calls in & out	110

Medical Appointment	4	Wellness Checks	7
SHINE / Office Visits	18	Attended SHINE Meeting	1

Statistical Data

The following statistics represent the number of individuals using our transportation services, meals on wheels, luncheon attendance and attendance at our various programs for the month of February, 2007:

Van Transportation	238	Medical Transportation	57
Tai Chi	22	Card Games/Pitch	80
Meals on Wheels Delivered	1,974	Weekend meals delivered	28
Congregate Meals Served	497	Total Meals Served	2499
Cash Turnovers	\$1,172.00	Phone calls in & out	730+
Guestbook	564+	Walmart	15
Cards sent to elders	30	Free Tax Appointments	46
Line Dancing	19	Hannaford	46
Lunch attendance	151+	CVS	14
Bank	9	Cardio & Yoga (New programs)	30
Computer Classes	32	Senior Club attendance	38
Podiatry Clinic	6	Fallon Rep	6

February 2007 – Senior Center events, programs & services

100th Birthday Celebration – Weds. Feb 7th @ 9:00 am

The Senior Center Director and the COA Board awarded the Boston Post Cane to Ellen A. Doble in a ceremony honoring her 100th birthday on Wednesday, February 7. Mrs. Doble received a lovely birthday cake from the UNNC designed by Julie Bleyhl. Senator Richard T. Moore, Representative Dr. Jennifer Callahan, and Julie Woods, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen presented special citations to Mrs. Doble. Jill Myers presented a bouquet of roses and John H. McQuade, Chairman of the Council on Aging Board presented the Boston Post Cane. About 45 family members and friends were in attendance sharing the festivities and remarking on Mrs. Doble's elegant spirit. Mrs. Doble and her brother, Alfred L. Goulet, 91, are participating in a special longevity study conducted by graduate students at Boston University; a most special gift for those who will inherit the future.

Pitch Party Every Monday Night: February 5, 12, & 26th. Reminder: No Pitch on Monday, Feb 19th President's Day the Center will be closed. Pitch begins @ 6:30 PM ~ \$2 donation. We are always looking for new participants. We have a big comfortable Center. Just right for playing cards together. Stop by and check us out. We offer 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes, Door Prizes, and fun, fun, fun! Coffee and complimentary refreshments served each week.

Tuesday Afternoons 1:30 – 4:00 PM: Come join us for an afternoon of card playing every Tuesday at the Uxbridge Senior Center. Contact Rita @ 278-2824 for more information about this card group. All are welcome!

Thurs., Feb. 1st: SHINE Representative Mary Rice will be on hand from 9:00 am to 11:30 am to answer your medical and insurance questions. You may qualify for help in paying your Part B Medicare premium (\$93.50 per month). Call us at 508-278-8622 or 508-278-8638 if you think you are eligible for the MassHealth Buy-In. You must make an appointment to discuss this option as each case is different and takes time to determine eligibility. Thank you.

Sun. Feb 4th: The UNNC will meet at 1:00 pm and will host a professional Organizer as their guest speaker. Call Julie Blehyl, UNNC Vice President @ 278-9994 for more information about this fun group.

Tues., Feb. 6th: 7:00 pm ~ Mental Health Support Group meeting at the Senior Center, 36 South Main Street. Please call Connie at 278-9833 if you have any questions or need more information about this important support group. This group offers support to individuals who have loved ones diagnosed with mental illness.

Weds.,Feb. 7th: 9:00 am ~ Interagency meeting at the Uxbridge Police Department

Thurs., Feb. 8th: Wal-Mart Shopping – Pickup begins @ 8:30 AM – You must call each month to reserve your seat. Sorry, we cannot save your seat from month to month. Please call if you can't make it so the next person can jump aboard from our waiting list. Thank you!

Fri., Feb. 9th: Special luncheon trip to Lincoln Downs. Van leaves at 10:30 am. Expected return: 3:00 pm. We ask that you come to the Senior Center to sign up for this trip as seating is limited to 14. First Come First served. We will take names on a waiting list in an attempt to fill every seat.

Tues.,Feb. 13th: 5:00 PM - COA Board Meeting

Weds., Feb. 21st: 11:30am ~ Valentine's Day Luncheon featuring Hum & Strum and a special visit from Bonnie Reid's family, Special Valentine's from Our Lady of the Valley 5th grade class. Call Carrie, @ 508-278-7609, 48 hours in advance, to reserve your lunch. We will have a special door prize and lots of extra treats made special to grace our tables and packed with love from one of our very own special cherubs! The children will extend their love by way of their beautiful hand made valentines for our senior citizens! Don't miss this special luncheon and opportunity to meet and greet our 1st graders!

Weds.Feb. 14th & 28th: 1:30 PM Senior Club - If you are interested in joining our Senior Club, call us at 508-278-8622. Membership is \$10 per year. Senior Club meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 1:30 – 4:00 pm at the Senior Center. Bingo, special trips, a chance to socialize with friends, and a short business meeting are some of the special features of this fun-filled, bi-monthly club.

Mon. Feb. 19th: Center Closed in observance of President's Day

Sat., Feb 24th: SERVE New England: Distribution begins @ 10:00 AM Call 1-888-742-7363 or go online to www.servenewengland.org to learn how you can save up to 50% and more on high-quality, fresh foods.

Weds. Feb. 28th: 11:30 am – Join us for a unique Lunch n Learn *“Leaving a Legacy, What the Next Generation Wants to Know”* with Laura Black-Silver, Caregiver Specialist – Tri-Valley, Inc. As our population ages, more adults are considering the legacies they want to leave their descendents. While gifts are often thought of in terms of financial bequests, the most valuable legacies can be personal memoirs, special recipes, picture albums or cherished belongings. Now can be a wonderful time to consider what is most precious to you. Join us today at this very unique Lunch n Learn and explore the many loving ways you can pass on a special legacy to your children, grandchildren and future generations. Please call Carrie at 508-278-7609 to make your reservation today.

DPW: Submitted by Larry Bombara

WATER

1. The completion of the communications tower is on hold due to inclement weather.
2. The Division, our engineers and vendors continue to research alternatives to improve water quality in the North End of Uxbridge.
3. Tata and Howard Engineers and the DPW presented an overview of the water tank replacement project and associated water main construction routes to the BOS with the Board endorsing the Taft Park water main option reducing estimated construction costs by over \$1,000,000.

WASTEWATER

1. Right of Way clearing continues in the Homeward Avenue area as weather allows.
2. Shop drawings are currently being reviewed by Beta Engineering Group for the anticipated spring construction of the lime silo.

HIGHWAY

1. Bids will be opened March 8th for the road and sidewalk improvement contracts located on Pleasant Street, Elm Street, Rivulet Street, Glendale Street and Cross Road.
2. Another successful meeting was held with the Mass Highway Department regarding the Town's future acquisition of portions of Route 122 (South and North Main Street) in return for full reconstruction of the roadway and sidewalk improvements throughout and new sidewalks in areas that are lacking. Discussion is also progressing on increasing the project scope to include the portion of Route 122 from the court house southerly to the site of the proposed new high school entrance opposite Susan parkway.

OTHER

Two articles will be proposed at the Spring Town Meeting to protect and improve our water system.

DRAFT VERSIONS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$_____ from the Water Enterprise Fund to the Water Capital Outlay account # 650.450.5850.5.0004 for the purpose of acquiring 4.87 acres of wellhead protection land from the Bouchard family abutting the Blackstone Street well field and related costs. Said parcel is more specifically described as Parcel "C" as shown on a plan entitled "Division of Land Blackstone Street Uxbridge Massachusetts" prepared by Andrews Survey and Engineering, Inc, dated 11-09-05 and being a portion of deed 5315/472, Plan Book 319, Plan 108 (map 26, lot 248) owned by William L and Karen Bouchard or take any other action relating thereto.

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$4,600,000 for the purpose of improving the Municipal Water Supply System, including the replacement of the 1905 High Street water tank, construction and replacement of water lines from said tank to North Main Street and acquiring any and all easements necessary for the project; that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen is authorized to borrow up to \$4,600,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to apply for, accept and expend and available federal or state funds or grants and/or gifts of any kind for the purpose of this project; that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project; and further that while this borrowing shall be a general obligation of the Town, it is the intent of the Town that the principle and interest on this borrowing will be paid for from the Water Enterprise Fund and/or the Water System Development Account; or take any other action relating thereto.

FINANCE DIRECTOR AND TOWN ACCOUNTANT: Submitted by David Genereux

- 1.) Third quarter tax bills were due and payable as of February 1st. Taxpayers who missed this deadline are encouraged to pay their bill quickly in order to mitigate interest charges, which accrue at 14%.
- 2.) Motor vehicle excise tax bills for 2007 are due on the 26th of March. Water/Sewer bills are due on March 9th. Water/Sewer bills will now be issued on a quarterly basis.
- 3.) **Update on the FY 2008 Budget:** The FY 2008 budget recommendation was prepared using revenue forecasts based on FY 2006 actual receipts. We have completed our revenue calculations, and are expecting to see overall town revenues to marginally increase, by \$515,582.00 to \$3,497,021 for FY 2008. This represents only a 1.56% increase over the FY 2007 budget amount. This forecast includes the first proposed local aid distribution from the Governor's budget, which shows the Town's distribution rising from \$11,536,654 to \$11,693,812, an increase of \$157,158 or 1.30% over this year's local aid.

The original budget submissions by departments, boards and committees totaled \$37,141,091, an increase over the current year's budget by \$3,644,070, or 12.61 percent. The difference between the increases in revenue less the increase in expenses resulted in a deficit of \$3,128,488 (\$515,582 - \$3,644,070).

The FY 2008 budget recommendation currently stands at \$35,395,509. This version of the budget reflects cuts from the original department submissions of \$1,745,582. They will be spelled out more succinctly in the Budget Message that we will be issuing shortly. Vacant positions have been eliminated, and there are no staff upgrades, or new hires. Expense budgets have been reduced. There are no funds for virtually any small or large capital

purchases. The Town side of the budget anticipates purchasing one police cruiser. Step and contractual increases have not been cut. All department heads, save those with contracts with other boards, have been but in for a 2 percent increase, in order to keep pace with contractual increases.

It is important to note that we found department head budget submissions on the whole to be articulate and genuine. They were submitted timely, and accurately reflected the department's needs in order to continue to provide services to the community. Unfortunately, the cuts being recommended were necessitated by the lack revenue growth, not by any belief that budgets were inflated.

On the expense side of the ledger, increases in fixed costs, such as health insurance, utilities, and Worcester Retirement have contributed \$817,324 in increases to the FY 2008 budget. Despite the cuts made in the Manager's recommended budget, it remains out of balance by a total of \$1,898,488 as of this writing. We are anticipating meeting with the Board of Selectmen, the Finance and School Committees, and the department heads in the near future in order to seek assistance in crafting a viable recommendation.

4.) Collections for January	Motor Vehicle	70,879.52
	Personal Property	7,326.37
	Real Estate	831,109.53
	Tax Title	3,582.71
	Interest, Liens & Fees	<u>10,927.78</u>
	Total Collected	923,825.91

5.) Cash Reconciliation – December		
	Starting Balance (November)	11,236,454.36
	Adjustment	6,779.94
	December Receipts	2,522,692.64
	December Warrants	<u>(4,085,020.90)</u>
	Cash Balance	\$9,680,906.04

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Peter Ostroskey

INCIDENT REPORT: The Department responded to 134 emergency incidents including 6 fire/explosion incidents, 103 rescue/medical emergencies, 3 hazardous conditions, 4 service calls, 2 good intent calls, 13 false alarms and 3 special type/complaint responses. We provided mutual aid to neighboring communities 9 times and received mutual aid on 4 occasions. Our personnel operated at significant incidents including:

- Two incidents requiring air transport to the Trauma Center (1 from a fall and 1 from a motor vehicle accident);
- Tankers 2 & 3 responded to Pascoag RI and operated at a structure fire on February 16;
- A two-alarm fire at 56 Cross Street that displaced one family on February 23;
- Response to the Town of Hopedale for a two-alarm structure fire.

The ambulance service evaluated 115 patients, provided care and transported 80 to area hospitals. The transports were to Milford Regional Medical Center (69), U-Mass – University Campus (3), U-Mass Memorial Campus (3), and Landmark Medical (2). Advanced life support service support from other agencies was involved on 45 occasions.

FIRE PREVENTION: Permits and inspections completed over the past month include 21 smoke/carbon monoxide detector inspections were completed, and 223 permits issued for aboveground storage tank installation (1), home heating oil storage (3), propane storage (8), maintain aboveground storage tank (1) and open air burning (xxx).

We have been working with the Town Manager's Office, Town Clerk's Office and license holders to update the records on flammable and combustible liquids storage licenses. On February 26 the Board of Selectmen held an administrative hearing and approved issuance of a duplicate license for AmeriGas on Depot St. We will continue to work with the stakeholders on other sites that might fall under this project in coming months.

TRAINING: Personnel received training and participated in drills on hazardous materials response and operations and response and protocols relative to treatment of stroke patients. One member attended Professional Development training through the Fire Chief's Association of Massachusetts in Leominster, one member attended training on EPA requirements on materials safety data sheets and the Community Right-To-Know Act in Providence.

GENERAL: On Saturday, February 24, 2007 EMT Bernard “Bernie” Gervais passed away suddenly at the age of 78. Bernie had retired from the Department a few years ago after more than ten years of service on the Ambulance during which time he was a capable EMT and mentor to newer members and new EMTs on our Department. He served our community in many other ways and we are honored to have had him on our Department.

There have been several developments impacting our Ambulance Service during the month of February. Thanks to the hard work of Deputy Chief Kessler and Captain Melissa Blodgett, the Department completed our license application to the State Office of Emergency Medical Services to operate at the Intermediate Level of Advanced Life Support (ALS) and we expect certification is soon to follow. This is the start of our transition to ALS services and we anticipate advancement to Paramedic Level service upon certification of the EMTs currently in training.

The members have been working through the procurement process for the new ambulance and bids were opened on February 21, 2007. The successful bidder is Quality Emergency Vehicles of Natick Massachusetts and the order has been placed for this purchase. The delivery is approximately 180 days after order. Captain Blodgett and Deputy Kessler spearheaded this effort and worked closely with the EMS personnel to bring this to completion.

On February 23 the Department responded to a reported structure fire at 56 Cross Street (see “Incident Report” above). First arriving personnel initiated an aggressive interior attack on a significant volume of fire in the attic of this residence. A second alarm brought mutual aid from Millville, Northbridge, Douglas and Mendon. This was a difficult fire to fight given the type of building construction and the cold temperatures resulting in the added hazard of very slippery conditions. The fire was quickly brought under control and all personnel worked well to limit the amount of damage as much as possible. The cause of this fire was accidental. Our mutual aid system is vitally important and hopefully not used often but still very effective! Uxbridge Police and Department of Public Works were right by our side and we extend our appreciation for their continued capable assistance.

POLICE DEPARTMENT: Submitted by Scott Freitas

During this time dispatch received, responded to and/or dispatched 866 calls for service to the Police, Fire or EMS. That is 103 more calls than February of last year. As you know 2006 now holds the record for calls for service from the police department. In the first two months of this year we have surpassed the 2006 totals to date by 6%. 13.7% of February’s calls were Fire/EMS related, which usually also required a police response and 86.3% were strictly police related.

66 Motor vehicle citations were issued that included 87 separate violations.

23 Motor Vehicle Accidents were investigated. This is about 15% higher than January of 2007 and for the year 2007 compared to 2006 the numbers are up 9%. The department will be redeploying some of our enforcement activities when available to attempt to reduce the numbers.

29 arrests or applications for criminal complaints were made this month. Two were for domestic violence situations. Two were for Drunk Driving. As opposed to last month, Friday was the day in which the most arrests occurred, with Tuesday being a close second. The majority of arrests were of people age 34 to 54. Persons age 11-17 came in a distant second. Overall, there were 2 more arrests

than last February. Overall this year we are up 6.5% over last year. The department investigated some serious sexual assaults this past month all of which involved individuals that knew each other.

As stated last month, relative to road construction, by spring the traffic patterns will once again become a difficult issue and the traffic patterns are apt to change quickly due to the needs of new projects on a daily basis.

Officer Bach received an recognition at a February Board of Selectmen's meeting for his overall performance at the Boylston Police Academy

Training: Officers Paul Stuczynski completed annual firearms qualification.

Officers David Bergeron, Kevin MacDonald, Brian MacDonald, Steven Prior and Paul Stuczynski completed In-Service training this month.

I completed training in Executive Leadership Development conducted by the FBI and received my CPR and First Responder Instructor refresher training.

All dispatchers attended a familiarization refresher on Department and Fire Department procedures.

Numerous training sessions will be attended during the upcoming months by many officers including but not limited to full time In Service Training.

Emergency Management: Sgt. Emerick has continued his hard work relative to Emergency Management planning and NIMS compliance training. More planning and training is scheduled in future months. Upgrades are still underway for the town's radio antennae system which should be completed in early spring.

Grants: Funding has been obtained thru grants from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to send Officer Stuczynski to training on missing children. A \$1000 grant has been obtained for training at a Domestic Violence Leadership forum for Sgt Emerick this spring. The grant and the training is by the international association of Chiefs of Police and will cover transportation training and lodging.

A \$5000 grant for training of Dispatchers was submitted and approved this month to the State E911 board. This grant is for dispatch training over the next 8 months.

Animal Control: The dog officer responded to at least 19 complaints in the month of January. Joyce Gareri and Sgt Emerick testified at court relative to a vicious dog at the Uxbridge District Court. Town Officials met relative to the regionalization of the dog officer and progress is ongoing in this endeavor.

Upcoming events: The Rape Aggression Defense Class has begun as part of Uxbridge High's Adult Education Program and is being taught by Officers Prior and Bach. The Citizen's Police Academy begins the end of March and seats are still available. Applications can be obtained at various locations around town or online at the town website.

I wish to thank you and the Board of Selectmen for your support as police chief and look forward to working with you in the upcoming months.

TOWN CLERK: Submitted by Joseph Kaplan

TOWN MEETING

Official record of the Special Town Meeting, held on January 9, 2007 was submitted to the Attorney General's Office. Article 2 was approved by the Attorney General's Office. Article 1 is currently under review.

ELECTIONS:

Preparations are now under way for the Annual Town Election, to be held on May 22, 2007. Nomination papers were made available to interested candidates and are due to the Board of Registrars on April 3, 2007.

VITAL RECORDS:

In the month of February we have recorded with the Secretary of State:

- 44 Birth certificates,
- 15 Marriage licenses
- 49 Death certificates

On the 10th of the month a state report is required recording the number of births, marriages, and deaths that have been processed by the Town Clerk's office.

We issued:

- 14 Certified copies of birth
- 6 Certified copies marriage certificates
- 17 Certified copies of death certificates

All birth, marriage, death and business certificates have to be indexed on a monthly basis.

REQUESTS/CERTIFICATES/LICENSES ISSUED:

- 8 Business certificates applications processed
- 4 Couples filed new marriage intentions
- 2 Raffle Permits
- 114 Dog Licenses
- 4 Kennel Licenses

OTHER ITEMS ISSUED:

- 3 Street listing books sold

TURNOVERS:

Our office handles the dog licenses as well as processing the money collected for the licenses, late fees and fines by the Animal Control Officer.

Total amount of money turned over to the Treasurer/Collector's office for all fees collected for the month of February was **\$1181.23**

PUBLIC OUTREACH

I am in the process of meeting with other town officials, town organizations, and individual citizens to expand public awareness of voter registration, the upcoming election, and services offered by our office.

OFFICE RECORDKEEPING:

The Town Clerk's office is the archival repository for the town. Our office is responsible for all 20 day appeals on ZBA decisions, filing Planning Board documents (i.e. Form A), various board/committee minutes, time stamp posting of meetings & agendas. We also display for the public agendas and meeting postings. Individuals can request copies of meeting minutes, agendas and postings through our office.

CUSTOMER SERVICE:

- Research, which entailed approximately 20 hours
- Genealogy
- Notary services
- Swearing In of committee members, new police officers, public offices

STAFF:

We look forward to hiring a part-time clerk to help us with office functions and data entry. Having this staff will help us complete the 2007 annual town census in a timely manner.

Jennifer A. Nealon and Lanny Remillard were recently appointed to the Board of Registrars, joining Cecilia Boatman and myself. I look forward to working with them.

TOWN PLANNER: Submitted by Floyd Forman

Spoke with or met with numerous members of the public concerning questions on planning and zoning issues. Spent time with the following projects before the Planning Board:

Town Meeting Matters

- Spent time with newspaper and applicants dealing with mistake newspaper made advertising a public hearing for a zoning article and also 2 subdivisions.

Planning Board

- Attended 2 Planning Board Meetings
- Set up public hearings RE: recommendations for changes to the Town's Subdivision Regulations concerning language and sight distance issues.
- Waucantuck Mill: Proposed redevelopment of old mill buildings involving cleanup of a brownfield site located along Mendon St. adjacent to West River Rd. and Henry St. The project needs a Special Permit from the Planning Board. Earlier, a number of department heads and staff from the Army Corps of Engineers met with the project proponent. The Planning Board continues to meet with the proponent for project review under the Town's Special Permit Zoning Bylaw. The project is moving along with parking issues and site issues discussed at the 2/28 meeting. The list of about 10 items that need further discussion with the Board; has been refined as we make progress toward a vote on the special permit request. Some of the other issues include the structural soundness of the dam, architectural

review of the project and recreational issues. Spent time in discussion with the DRC on the dam. Worked with the applicant's new lawyer in an effort to move the project along.

- Continued to work on the Meadow Valley Estates Definitive Subdivision Plan. This is a small subdivision at the Chockalog Rd. /Schnorr Sand Pit. The main concern has been the lack of adequate site distance. This issue seems to be resolved, however, no vote has yet been taken.
- Continued to work on the Quaker Industrial Park II Definitive Subdivision Plan Modification and the Unilock/Cnossen Request for a Special Permit. These projects go hand in hand as the subdivision needs to be modified to accommodate Unilock's use of the site. I have written draft decisions for both projects for the Planning Board and on 2/28, the Planning Board granted subdivision approval on the Quaker Industrial Park II Definitive Subdivision Plan Modification and granted a Special Permit to Cnossen long Term Investment Corp for a 40,000 square foot building at the aforementioned Quaker Industrial Park II Subdivision.

Other Matters

- Continued to work on the Four Town project in the Lackey Dam area along Route 146. Worked with the planners and Douglas Town Administrator forwarding information for a grant proposal to assist the Uxbridge Town Manager with her grant request.
- Discussion with the Chairman and follow-up memo to ZBA on matter before the Board.
- Continued to spend time with the new Chairman of the Planning Board explaining projects and issues in detail.
- Continued to spend time on 43D streamlined permitting including ideas for some of the Town's needs via possible grant.
- Set up meeting with land-use Attorney Mark Dobrowski and Town Manager concerning 43D and affordable housing issues.
- Met with Engineer from Hannaford's for a discussion about store renovations.
- Savers Bank: Continued to work with DPW Superintendent, Savers Bank and Town traffic consultants on traffic issues at the intersection of Routes 16 and 122. Further, raised issues with Bank president and the met with Bank's attorney and DPW Superintendent on the matter. Spoke with Bank's attorney on numerous occasions in an effort to get all parties in agreement. Later in the month the Planning Board took up the matter agreeing to signage issues and conveying to the bank that traffic light issues must also be completed promptly.
- Mall: Continued to help resolve issues related to commercial development at Routes 16 and 146. This included continued discussion concerning the new streamline permitting law.
- Met with and had discussions with representatives from Trustees of Reservations. They were invited to attend Heritage Landscape meeting.